



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**BRADLEY J. SCHLOZMAN**

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**MAY 4, 2006**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **ARIZONA MAN SENTENCED FOR COCAINE POSSESSION**

**JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.** – Bradley J. Schlozman, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that an Arizona man has been sentenced in federal court for possessing cocaine with the intent to distribute.

**Lance C. Tomlinson**, 29, of Indianola, Ariz., was sentenced by US. District Judge Scott O. Wright on Wednesday to 10 years in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Tomlinson** to forfeit to the government \$18,000, which was the proceeds derived as a result of the narcotics violation, and the 2001 Ford F-150 pickup truck used to commit the offense.

On April 28, 2004, **Tomlinson** pleaded guilty to being in possession with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine on Dec. 14, 2002, in Columbia, Mo. **Tomlinson** was the passenger in a vehicle being driven by co-defendant **Jon D. Athenour**, 28, of Phoenix, Ariz. **Athenour** was driving a Ford F150 when he was stopped for speeding on Dec. 14, 2002, Schlozman said. Law enforcement officers found a briefcase with packages containing approximately 2.2 kilograms of cocaine in the car, as well as several small marijuana roaches in the ashtray, and a loaded Springfield .40 caliber semi-automatic pistol under the armrest between the two front seats.

**Tomlinson** admitted that he was in possession of a firearm during and in relation to a drug-trafficking crime.

**Athenour**, who pleaded guilty on Jan. 27, 2004, admitted that he knew the cocaine was in the truck and that he was being paid \$4,000 to drive it to Indianapolis, Ind. **Athenour** was sentenced on July 6, 2004, to six months of probation to be served at a community confinement center.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony P. Gonzalez. It was investigated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html)